



Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement
Office of the Director



JAG
Joint Agency Group
OPERATIONAL DESCRIPTION & POLICY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Agency Group (JAG) is a collaborative effort consisting of multiple county, state, and federal agencies that investigates complaints of illegal, unlicensed, and unpermitted activity in Prince George's County ("County"). This collaboration ensures a coordinated County response to complaints that require JAG to leverage the enforcement powers of multiple agencies. Participating agencies include: PGC311, Office of the Comptroller of Maryland, Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE), Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T), Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD), Prince George's County Office of Law (OOL), Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department (PGFD), Prince George's Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board), Prince George's County Health Department, Revenue Authority of Prince George's County (Revenue Authority), and the Nuisance Abatement Board.

Among other things, JAG investigates persistent and critical violations within the County, such as nuisance properties, parking nuisances, unlicensed business activity, illegal dumping, party houses, criminal activity involving businesses and parties, and unpermitted events. These matters are typically complex and require thorough investigations by multiple agencies. JAG referrals should be submitted using the "Review and Investigation Referral." Once a complaint is referred to JAG and the appropriate agencies are assigned to investigate, JAG will monitor the progress of the investigation at its monthly meetings. The investigating agency/agencies will report the final resolution to JAG. Following an investigation, the participating agencies may take enforcement action, pursuant to their enforcement authority, such as issuing violation notices, citations, and prosecution. DPIE assists JAG agencies with conducting investigations, inspections, and preparing cases for the Nuisance Abatement Board, administrative, and/or district court proceedings. Investigations may take more than 30 days, and remediation of a complaint may take two weeks to one year to complete, depending on the legal process.

Outside of JAG, agencies frequently collaborate to address issues that may require a multiagency approach. For example, DPIE may conduct a "clean lot" initiative to clean blighted, abandoned, and vacant properties, as well as neglected, unkept, and unsightly owner-occupied properties. DPIE will leverage other agencies as warranted, which may include the Revenue Authority and DoE, to address public nuisances within the County. Additionally, DoE's Environmental Crimes team may also be engaged. The team addresses complaints and investigates, removes, and prosecutes offenders of major incidents of illegal dumping on private property and in the public right-of-way. Although DoE is the lead agency, DPIE, DPW&T, and the Prince George's County Police Department also participate. The Environmental Crimes team refers cases to the State's Attorney's Office for prosecution. (The Environmental Crimes Team Policy is attached for reference.) Cases may also be referred to the Nuisance Abatement Board.

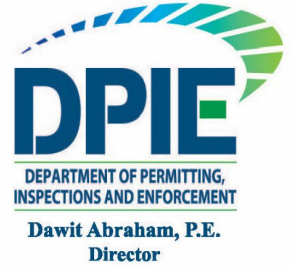


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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *Other than direct referrals, how does JAG identify potential cases?*

JAG also uses 311 service requests and social media to identify potential illegal activity and violations. Social media has been a valuable tool for JAG and has allowed it to prevent major disruptions from occurring.

2. *How will the referring party be updated on the progress of their referral?*

Submission of the Review and Investigation Referral form allows JAG to create a log of the complaint. Once a referral has been submitted, the JAG team will evaluate the complaint and provide periodic updates to the referring party. Updates will include whether JAG accepts the referral, results of the investigation, and/or the outcome of any legal proceedings. A record of the referred complaint is maintained for a period of three years. An annual report denoting the types of complaints assigned in that fiscal year and resolution percentages may be provided upon request. Follow-up inquiries should be directed to Bill Edelen of DPIE at WKEdelen@co.pg.md.us.

3. *Which agency is “in charge” of JAG?*

Since JAG is a collaborative effort, no singular agency oversees the group. However, DPIE coordinates the referral of the complaint to JAG, collaborates with JAG agencies to conduct investigations and inspections, and assists in preparing cases for administrative and district court proceedings as needed.

4. *Does JAG investigate illegal and unpermitted activity after normal business hours and during the weekend?*

Yes. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the applicable enforcement agencies will investigate based on the alleged complaint and work with the necessary partner agencies.